

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:66
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2003
PRICES OF EDIBLE OIL
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the quantity of edible oil imports were the highest during 2002;
- (b) if so, the details of these imports made during each of the last six months and quantity proposed to be imported during 2003;
- (c) whether the prices of edible oil recently have shown alarming rise;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check the prices of edible oil and black marketing of these commodities?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.66 DUE FOR ANSWER ~~ON~~ 2003 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a): The quantity of edible oils imported during recent years is as under:-

(Quantity in lakh MTs)

Year (April-March)	Import of Edible Oils-
1999-2000	41.96
2000-2001	41.77
2001-2002	

(Provisional)	42.14
2002-2003	

(April-October, 02) 24.83

-Source : Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics.

(b): Import of edible oils is on Open General Licence (OGL).The quantity of edible oils imported during April-October, 2002 was 24.83 lakh MTs, as compared to 27.99 lakh MTs during the corresponding period of 2001. There is no proposal, at present, to import edible oils on Government account.

(c)&(d): As per the available information, the prices of edible oils in the country during the last few months are mentioned below:-

(Prices in Rs. per quintal)

	Price as on 15.2.2003	Price as on 15.11.2002	%variation three months	Price as on 15.08.2002	%variation over six months
Mustard Oil	4000	4250	-5.88	3780	+5.82
Groundnut Oil	5450	4730	+15.22	5150	+5.83
Soyabean Oil	4060	4210	-3.56	3720	+9.14
Seasame Oil	4800	4500	+6.67	4210	+14.01
Sunflower Oil	4700	4900	-4.08	5050	-6.93

Cottonseed Oil	4100	4150	-1.20	3850	+6.49
Coconut Oil	5850	5475	+6.85	4750	+23.16
Vanaspati (15ltr. pack)	670	675	-0.74	640	+4.69

Source : Economic Times/Business Line

(e): The steps taken in this regard include:-

(i) Import of edible oils has been allowed on OGL,

(ii) The import duty structure of edible oils is reviewed from time to time and the prices and availability regularly monitored,

(iii) In order to curb under-invoicing, the Tariff Value is fixed from time to time for Palm Oil and its products and soyabean oil,

(iv) An aggregate Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) of the total imports for crude sunflower or safflower oil and refined rape, colza or mustard oil is permitted at a concessional rate of duty, for actual users.